

DOCKET NO. 329368-101A

SERIAL NO. 08/854,825

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Chisaris, et. al.  
Serial No.: 08/854,825 Art Unit: 1648  
Filing Date: May 12, 1997 Examiner: Parkins  
Entitled: "Hepatitis C Virus-Derived Peptides Capable of Inducing Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Responses"  
Docket No. 329368-101A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to Examination of this Application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

22. (Twice Amended) An isolated molecule comprising a polypeptide that induces an hepatitis C virus (HCV)-specific response in cytotoxic T lymphocytes having a sequence that has

(a) no more than a total of two single amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions at the corresponding amino acid positions in a CTL epitope which is LLALLSCLTV (Core<sub>178-187</sub>; SEQ ID NO:2), QLRRHIDLLV (E1<sub>257-266</sub>; SEQ ID NO:3), KLVALGINAV (NS3<sub>1406-1415</sub>; SEQ ID NO:28), or LLFNILGGWV (NS4<sub>1807-1816</sub>; SEQ ID NO:35), or

(b) has no more than one single amino acid substitution, deletion or insertion at the corresponding amino acid positions as in a CTL epitope which is ADLMGYIPLV (Core<sub>131-140</sub>; SEQ ID NO:1), DLMGYIPLV (Core<sub>132-140</sub>; SEQ ID NO:54), LLCPAGHAV (NS3<sub>1169-1177</sub>; SEQ ID NO:26), SLMAFTAAV (NS4<sub>1789-1797</sub>; SEQ ID NO:34), or ILDSFDPLV (NS5<sub>2252-2260</sub>; SEQ ID NO:42),

wherein said molecule comprises at least eight amino acids and less than 50 amino acids, with the [proviso] provisos that (i) when said selected CTL epitope is SLMAFTAAV (NS4<sub>1789-1797</sub>; SEQ ID NO:34), then said molecule comprises from at least eight amino acids to less than 25 amino acids, (ii) when said [polypeptide] selected CTL epitope is LLALLSCLTV (Core<sub>178-187</sub>; SEQ ID NO:2) then said molecule comprises at most ten amino acids, and (iii) when